

- b) extending the signal primer on the target sequence to produce an extension product;
- c) separating the extension product from the target sequence;
- d) hybridizing an amplification primer to the extension product and extending the amplification primer to synthesize a complement of the adapter sequence;
- e) separating the product including the complement of the adapter sequence from the extension product;
- f) hybridizing to the complement of the adapter sequence a reporter probe comprising a reporter moiety, and producing a double-stranded reporter moiety; and
- g) detecting the double-stranded reporter moiety as an indication of amplification of the target sequence.

22. (Amended). The method of Claim 20 wherein the reporter is a molecular beacon.

REMARKS

Paper No. 4 presented an objection to claims for improper dependency and a rejection of claims as indefinite. Each of these issues is addressed below.

I. Improper Dependency

Claims 21 and 23 were subject to objection under 37 C.F.R. §1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim.

Independent Claim 20 has been amended to clarify that which was evident from dependent Claims 21 and 23. Specifically, what was element (d) of Claim 20 (now element (f) of amended Claims 20), encompasses numerous hybridization-related mechanisms by which a double-stranded reporter moiety may be produced. Claim 21 specifies one mechanism - "upon hybridization of the reporter moiety to the complement of the adapter sequence," and Claim 23 specifies another mechanism - "upon synthesis of a complement of the reporter moiety." Moreover, Claim 22 which is dependent from Claim 21, but not from Claim 23, because Claim 22 specifies the reporter as a